

Not Applicable.

INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC

Not Applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Technical Field of the Invention

This invention relates to the design of optimal linear controllers and PID controllers.

Description of Related Art

Figure 1 shows a process 1 controlled by a PID (proportional-integral-derivative) or a linear controller 2. The PID controller or linear controller 2 means a linear system, usually implemented in a computer or as an electronic circuit, that receives the process variable signal $y(k)$ and set-point signal $r(k)$ as its inputs and calculates the controller output signal $u(k)$ according to a PID control equation or a linear control equation, where k is the integer discrete time variable. For a multiple-input and multiple-output (MIMO) process, the process variable $y(k)$ is an n -dimensional vector with each of its components being a scalar process variable and the controller output $u(k)$ is an m -dimensional vector variable with each of its components being a scalar controller output, where n and m are positive integers. It is desired that the performance of the controller should be such that, after the controller output signal $u(k)$ is sent to the process 1, the process variable $y(k)$ should approach the set-point $r(k)$ quickly and smoothly as the time variable k increases, where $r(k)$ is an n -dimensional set-point signal (also known as the reference signal or the command signal, etc.)

There are many types of PID controllers, depending on the use of different types of PID control equations. All types of PID controllers can be viewed as special cases of linear controllers. By definition, a discrete-time linear controller means a controller whose output $u(k)$ is a linear function of past controller outputs, current and past process variables, and current and past set-point variables, as shown in Figure 2. This definition is well known to any person skilled in the art (see, e.g., Figure 2.4 and Assumption 2.3 on page 29 of the cited book "Linear Controller Design" authored by Boyd and Barratt and published by Prentice Hall in 1991).

Once the structure of its control equation is properly selected, the performance of a PID controller

or a linear controller depends mainly on the choice of coefficients in the control equation. The adjustable numbers in the coefficients are called tuning parameters (also known as tuning coefficients, tuning gains or tuning constants, etc.)

How to properly choose tuning parameters for a PID controller is a problem that has attracted a lot of studies ever since PID controllers became widely used in industry in the early 1940s. The Ziegler-Nichols tuning methods developed by Ziegler and Nichols in 1942 (see the Ziegler and Nichols reference), either in their original form or in some modification, are still widely used in industry. Other model-based optimization methods choose the tuning parameters by minimizing some well-known control performance index such as the integrated absolute errors (IAE), the integrated squared errors (ISE), the integrated time absolute error (ITAE), etc. (see US patent 5,453,925). However, practice shows that all these methods often lead to the undesired oscillatory control results.

Many tuning methods are based on the continuous-time transfer function analysis (see, for example, the cited US patents 6,434,436 B1 to Adamy et al., 5,866,861 to Rajamani et al., 4,539,633 to Shigemasa et al., 4,563,734 to Mori et al., the cited research papers by Celentano et al., Zhuang et al., Dorf et al., Katebi et al., and Saeki et al., and the cited book "Linear Controller Design" authored by Boyd et al.). Therefore these methods cannot guarantee the optimal performance of controllers in the discrete-time domain. This is a real problem since nowadays almost all PID or linear controllers are implemented in digital computers and therefore they are working in the discrete-time domain, not the continuous-time domain.

Other tuning methods in discrete-time domain cannot guarantee that the largest absolute value of all the poles of the closed-loop transfer function is minimized. Therefore they cannot guarantee the optimal performance of the controller (see, e.g., the cited US patent No. 5,680,304 to Wang et al. and the cited research paper by Yamamoto et al., etc.).

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention chooses the tuning parameters in a PID controller or a linear controller by minimizing the maximum of absolute values of all poles of the discrete-time closed-loop transfer function from said set-point $r(k)$ to said process variable $y(k)$ subject to, if any, user-specified constraints on one or more of the tuning parameters. When the tuning parameters are chosen this way, the PID controller or linear

controller can guarantee that the process variable $y(k)$ tracks the set-point $r(k)$ smoothly and quickly as time k increases.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 shows a process 1 controlled by a PID controller or a linear controller 2. The PID controller or linear controller is in discrete-time form.

Figure 2 shows a PID or a linear controller. By definition, the controller output $u(k)$ of a linear controller is a linear function of $u(k-1)$, $u(k-2)$, ..., $u(k-a)$, $y(k)$, $y(k-1)$, ..., $y(k-b)$, $r(k)$, $r(k-1)$, $r(k-2)$, ..., $r(k-c)$, wherein $a > 0$, b and c are integers (This definition is well known to any person skilled in the art and is given in Figure 2.4 and Assumption 2.3 on page 29 of the cited book "Linear Controller Design" authored by Boyd et al.)

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

From now on it is always assumed that:

- (1) The open-loop discrete-time transfer function of the process 1 is known, and
- (2) The structure of the control equation of the PID controller or the linear controller has already been properly chosen and is already in discrete-time form.

It is then easy for anyone skilled in the art to find the discrete-time closed-loop transfer function from the set-point $r(k)$ to the process variable $y(k)$, as shown in Figure 1. This invention chooses the best values for the tuning parameters in a PID controller or a linear controller in such a way that the largest absolute value of all poles of said discrete-time closed-loop transfer function from said set-point $r(k)$ to said process variable $y(k)$ is minimized subject to, if any, user-specified constraints on one or more of the tuning parameters. This choice guarantees that the process variable $y(k)$ tracks the set-point $r(k)$ smoothly and quickly as time k increases.

The above description contains a minimax optimization problem. The general minimax problem has been very well studied and many successful numerical methods and algorithms have been developed, see, e.g., the cited publications by Charalambous et al., Conn et al., Conn, Pillo, Gigola et al., Polyak, Polak, Polak et al., Vardi, Zang, Murray et al., Kaufman et al., Reemsten, Zhou et al., and Laskari et al.